

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A character communication device connected to a network and enabling communication at least by characters, comprising:

transmitting and receiving means for implementing a communication of messages with a communication device of a counterparty of the communication via said network;

communication content displaying means for displaying in a communication content displaying area of a screen display a content of the communication with said communication device of said counterparty;

candidate term displaying means for displaying in a candidate term displaying area of said screen display a group of candidate terms prepared in advance for the communication of said messages;

term selecting means for outputting a term selected by a communicator out of said group of candidate terms; and

message forming means for serially displaying a plurality of output terms in a message editing area of said screen display, thereby forming a message and sending the formed message to said transmitting and receiving means.

28. (New) A character communication device according to claim 27, wherein the communication device of said counterparty is either a host computer executing a program of a communication-type game which develops in response to an access by a

plurality of computers each having a character communication device, or a communication device operated by a plurality of participants taking part in said communication-type game.

29. (New) A character communication device according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said candidate term displaying means receives said group of candidate terms from said communication device of said counterparty.

30. (New) A character communication device according to claim 28, wherein said candidate terms are classified according to at least one of a set of names of said participants in the game, and a plurality of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, inflections, symbols, or user-registered short sentences that are related to the game.

31. (New) A character communication device according to any one of claims 27 through 30, wherein said candidate terms are arranged in a table in a plurality of pages, and one of said plurality of pages is displayed in said candidate term displaying area.

32. (New) A character communication device comprising:  
storing means for storing a database including a plurality of messages in a single language and a mark added to one or more of said messages;  
a menu displaying device for selectably displaying some of said plurality of messages on a menu screen of a display;

message mark outputting means for outputting the mark corresponding to a selected message by referring to said database; and

transmitting means for transmitting the outputted message marks to a counterparty of a communication.

33. (New) A character communication device according to claim 32, wherein said messages are displayed on said screen in a form of a card.

34. (New) A game device comprising the character communication device according to any one of claims 27, 28, or 30-33.

35. (New) A game device according to claim 34, wherein a selection operation by an operator is performed via a game controller serving as an inputting device of the game device.

36. (New) A character communication system connected to a network and structured to include a character communication device capable of displaying a card showing at least a character to a party of a communication, comprising:

a first character communication device using a first card group in one language for the communication; and

a second character communication device using a second card group in another language for the communication;

wherein the communication between said first and second character communication devices is performed by corresponding in advance a card from said first card group with a card from said second card group having a common meaning.

37. (New) A character communication system connected to a network and structured to include a character communication device capable of displaying a card showing at least a character to a party of a communication, comprising:

a first character communication device using a first card group in one language for the communication; and

a second character communication device using a second card group in another language for the communication;

wherein the communication between said first and second character communication devices is performed using a mark commonly assigned in advance to a card of said first message group and a card of said second message group having a common meaning.